



May 21, 2004

Dear Interested Party,

Ecology is pleased to announce the release of the Draft Beyond Waste Summary of the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plans. It is now available on the Ecology Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>. The Summary Document describes Ecology's draft 30-year plans for decreasing solid and hazardous wastes, increasing recycling, properly managing those wastes that remain and reducing the use of toxic substances. State laws require Ecology to develop statewide solid and hazardous waste plans. The existing plans are being updated as part of this "Beyond Waste" project. This Summary Document and the related background papers constitute the draft Hazardous Waste Plan and the draft Solid Waste Plan.

Ecology consulted with the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, businesses, local government officials, the solid waste industry, citizens, and others to develop the Beyond Waste 30-year vision, the areas of focus, and the draft recommendations. The Beyond Waste vision is:

We can transition to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to economic, social and environmental vitality.

The focus areas and the draft recommendations are common to both the draft Hazardous Waste Plan and the draft Solid Waste Plan. The remainder of the plans include recommendations specific to the current hazardous waste system and the current solid waste system, as well as relevant sections on background and history.

We'd like to point out a few specifics about the Beyond Waste Summary Document. This is an internet document that contains the background, goals, recommendations and milestones for the draft solid and hazardous waste plans. As you read through this Summary you will encounter electronic links that allow you to connect to longer papers, entitled "Background Information," related to specific sections in the Summary. These long papers contain more detail about the subject, the goals and recommendations. In some cases these links are still under development. When this is the case, Ecology provides a contact name for additional information and a note about when to expect the longer background document to be posted on the Web site. You may wish to check the Beyond Waste Web site periodically for updates after the public meetings are completed in mid-June.

Ecology welcomes and encourages interested parties to give feedback in a number of convenient ways. First, an electronic comment form is linked to the Summary Document for use in sending written comments to Ecology via the internet. Second, a number of e-mail addresses are provided in the Summary Document and on the Web site for submitting questions or comments. Third, a number of public meetings are being held around the state. Please consider attending one of the following meetings:

Olympia: May 25, 2004

6 to 9 p.m. at the Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey

Cheney: May 27, 2004

1 to 4 p.m. at Eastern Washington University, Pence Union Building;

or

6 to 9 p.m. at Eastern Washington University, Pence Union Building

Ellensburg: June 8, 2004.

1 to 4 p.m. at Central Washington University, Samuelson Union Building Ballroom, 400 E. University Way;

or

6 to 9 p.m. at Central Washington University, Samuelson Union Building Ballroom, 400 E. University Way

Lynnwood: June 10, 2004

1 to 4 p.m. at Edmonds Community College, Snohomish Hall, 20000 68th Ave W, Lynnwood; **or**

6 to 9 p.m. at Edmonds Community College, Snohomish Hall, 20000 68th Ave W, Lynnwood

We are particularly interested in feedback about the following:

1. These plan recommendations are not only for the Department of Ecology. To reach the Beyond Waste vision in 30 years, many other entities (other state agencies, local governments, businesses, the solid waste industry, non-profit and professional organizations, etc.) are needed to both partner with Ecology and to lead some of the specific recommendations. We are interested in comments about who can lead and participate in these efforts. The final plans will be constructed with these comments in mind.

2. This summary contains our collective best ideas about how to get to the Beyond Waste vision in 30 years starting with recommendations for the first 5 years and long-term goals. Please tell us about the areas you support, whether we have missed any key starting points, and what actions seem unnecessary.

Ecology will be taking comments through August 13, 2004. We hope you will take advantage of one of the opportunities to share your thoughts and ideas with us about the Beyond Waste Project.

If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list to receive information on the Beyond Waste Project or to request print versions of the Beyond Waste documents, please contact Michelle Payne at mdav461@ecy.wa.gov, (360) 407-6129.
